

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in a future application. Please amend claims 31, 36-39 and 44-47 as follows:

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A synthetic peptide comprising all or a fragment or variant of a regulatory virus protein R (Vpr) of the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) (SEQ ID NO: 1), or a fragment or variant thereof, wherein the fragment or variant thereof consists of a peptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a 20 amino acid Vpr protein ( $\text{rVpr}^{1-20}$  or  $\text{rVpr}^{21-40}$ ; SEQ ID NO: 8 and 9, respectively);
- (b) a 47 amino acid N-terminal peptide ( $\text{rVpr}^{1-47}$ ; SEQ ID NO: 2);
- (c) a 49 amino acid long C-terminal peptide ( $\text{rVpr}^{18-96}$ ; SEQ ID NO: 3); ~~or~~
- (d) ~~a fragment of at least 15 amino acids of any one of (a) (c)~~

$\text{rVpr}^{11-25}$  (SEQ ID NO: 4);

(e)  $\text{rVpr}^{41-55}$  (SEQ ID NO: 5); or

(f)  $\text{rVpr}^{46-60}$  (SEQ ID NO: 6).

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The synthetic peptide of claim 31, consisting of  $\text{rVpr}^{1-96}$  (SEQ ID NO: 1).

33. (CANCELLED)

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The synthetic peptide of claim 31 bound to a second molecule, wherein the second molecule comprises a DNA or protein molecule.